

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

In the Claims

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) Distribution device ~~for guiding~~ comprising at least one line (2), particularly an electrical line, having a distribution trough (4) for laying down the line (2), whereby the distribution trough (4) has a distribution surface (6) and lateral guides (8), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one magnet (12, 16, 28) is guided with the line (2), which magnet is disposed on or below a side of the line (2) that points downward, and by means of which magnet it can be held suspended in the distribution trough (4), at least over part of its length.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one lower-side magnet (12) is guided with the line (2), facing the distribution surface (6), and that the distribution surface (6) has at least one distribution-surface magnet (14), which is disposed in such a

manner that it repels the lower-side magnet (12) as it approaches.

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 1 ~~or 2, characterized in that~~ ,wherein at least one lateral magnet (16) is guided with the line (2), facing the lateral guides (8), and that the lateral guides (8) have at least one lateral-guide magnet (18), in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lateral magnet (16) as it approaches.

Claim 4. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the line (2) can be folded in the distribution trough (4), in such a manner that a first section (24) can be laid down with its lower side that faces the distribution surface (6), above an upper side, facing away from the distribution surface (6), of a second section (26) connected with the first by means of a bent section.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 4, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one upper-side magnet (28) is guided with the upper side of the second section (26) as well as the lower side of the first section (24), in each instance, whereby a magnetic pole of the upper-side magnet (28) on the first section (24) faces a similarly named pole of the upper-side

magnet (28) on the second section (26), so that the first section (24) can be held suspended, at least over part of its length, above the second section (26).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several upper-side magnets (28) are disposed along the first and the second section (24, 26), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the first section (24) face similarly named magnetic poles along the second section (26).

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 2 to 6, characterized in that~~ claim 2, wherein several lower-side magnets (12) are disposed along the line (2), at a distance from one another, and several distribution-surface magnets (14) are disposed on the distribution surface (6), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles along the line (2) face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface (6).

Claim 8. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 3 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 3, wherein several lateral-guide magnets (18) are disposed along the lateral guides (8), at a distance from one another, and several lateral magnets (16) are disposed along the sides of the line (2) that face the

lateral guides (8), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the lateral-guide magnets (18) face similarly named magnetic poles of the lateral magnets (16).

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) are disposed on every lateral guide (8) in two rows that run at a distance from one another, one above the other.

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) are disposed on the line (2).

Claim 11. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the line (2) is disposed in a carrier (10, 20, 30) that carries the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the upper-side magnets (28).

Claim 12. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) are disposed on the outer surface of the carrier (10, 20, 30).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) are disposed in the carrier (10, 20, 30).

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 11, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) are disposed in accommodation openings in the outer surface of the carrier (10, 20, 30).

Claim 15. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the carrier is a sheath (10) that encloses the line (2).

Claim 16. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the carrier is a plastic mass (20) in which several lines (2) are embedded.

Claim 17. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 11 to 14, characterized in that~~ claim 11, wherein the carrier is a power supply chain (30).

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) ~~Device for guiding~~
Distribution device comprising a power supply chain, ~~having~~ and a distribution trough (4) for laying down the power supply chain (30), whereby the distribution trough (4) has a distribution surface (6) and lateral guides (8), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the power supply chain (30) has at least one magnet (12, 16, 28), by means of which it can be held suspended in the distribution trough (4), at least over part of its length.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein at least one upper-side magnet (28) is disposed on the upper side of a lower stringer (36) of the power supply chain (30), and on the lower side of an upper stringer (38) of the power supply chain (30), in each instance, in such a manner that a magnetic pole on the upper stringer (38) faces a similarly named magnetic pole on the lower stringer (36).

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several upper-side magnets (28) are disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer (38) and on the upper side of the lower stringer (36), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer (38) face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer (36).

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 18 to 20, characterized in that~~ claim 18, wherein the power supply chain (30) has at least one lower-side magnet (12) on its lower side, facing the distribution surface (6), and that the distribution surface (6) has at least one distribution surface magnet (14), which is disposed in such a manner that it repels the lower side magnet (12) as it approaches.

Claim 22. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several lower-side magnets (12) are disposed along the lower side, at a distance from one another, and several distribution-surface magnets (14) are disposed on the distribution surface (6) at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the lower side face similarly named magnetic poles on the distribution surface (6).

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 18 to 22, characterized in that~~ claim 18, wherein the power supply chain (30) has at least one lateral magnet (16) on its sides facing the lateral guides (8), and that the lateral guides (8) have at least one lateral-guide magnet (18), in each instance, which is disposed in such a manner that a magnetic pole of the lateral guide magnet (18) faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the lateral magnet (16).

Claim 24. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 23, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several lateral magnets (16) are disposed along the power supply chain (30), at a distance from one another, and several lateral-guide magnets (18) are disposed along the lateral guides (8), at a distance from one another, in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the lateral magnets (16) face similarly named magnetic poles of the lateral-guide magnets (18).

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 24, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) are disposed in two rows that run at a distance from one another and on top of one another.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of claims 18 to 25, characterized in that~~ claim 18, wherein the distribution trough (4) has a slide rail (40) for laying down the upper stringer (38), that at least one slide-rail magnet (42) is disposed on the slide rail (40), and that at least one upper-side magnet (28) is disposed on the lower side of the upper stringer (38) that faces the slide rail (40), in such a manner that a magnetic pole of the upper-side magnet (28) faces a similarly named magnetic pole of the slide-rail magnet (42).

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) Device according to claim 26, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several upper-side magnets (28) are

disposed on the power supply chain (30), at a distance from one another, and several slide-rail magnets (42) are disposed on the slide rail (40), at a distance from one another, in such a manner that magnetic poles of the upper-side magnets (28) face similarly named magnetic poles of the slide-rail magnets (42).

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the distribution trough (4) is made of a non-magnetic material, preferably plastic, aluminum or an aluminum alloy.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) and/or the distribution-surface magnets (14) and/or the slide rail magnets (42) are disposed on the surface of the distribution trough (4).

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) and/or the distribution-surface magnets (14) and/or the slide rail magnets (42) are inserted into openings in the distribution trough (4).

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) and/or the distribution-surface

magnets (14) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) and/or the slide rail magnets (42) are permanent magnets.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended) Device according to ~~one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ claim 1, wherein the lateral-guide magnets (18) and/or the distribution-surface magnets (14) and/or the lateral magnets (16) and/or the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the upper-side magnets (28) and/or the slide rail magnets (42) are electromagnets.

Claim 33. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain, ~~characterized by~~ for use in a distribution device according to claim 18, comprising at least one upper-side magnet (28) on the upper side of its lower stringer (36) and at least one upper-side magnet (28) on the lower side of its upper stringer (38), whereby a magnetic pole on the lower stringer (36) faces a similarly named magnetic pole on the upper stringer (38).

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to claim 33, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein several upper-side magnets (28) are disposed on the upper side of its lower stringer (36) and on the lower side of its upper stringer (38), in each instance, in such a manner that magnetic poles on the upper stringer (38) face similarly named magnetic poles on the lower stringer (36).

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain,
~~characterized by~~ for use in a distribution device according to
claim 18, comprising at least one lower-side magnet (12) on its
lower side and/or at least one lateral magnet (16) on the lateral
surfaces of the chain links.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according
to claim 35, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lateral magnets
(16) are disposed on its lateral links (34).

Claim 37. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according
to ~~one of claims 33 to 36, characterized in that~~ claim 33,
wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the upper-side magnets
(28) are disposed on the connection crosspieces (32) that connect
the lateral links (34).

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according
to ~~one of claims 33 to 36, characterized in that~~ claim 33,
wherein the lower-side magnets (12) and/or the upper-side magnets
(28) are disposed on the lateral links (34) of the power supply
chain (30).

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according
to ~~one of claims 33 to 38, characterized in that~~ claim 33,
wherein a pair of upper-side magnets (28) is disposed on every
chain link, symmetrical to the center longitudinal plane,

extending on both sides in the longitudinal direction of the chain link.

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to claim 39, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the upper-side magnets (28) have elevations (28a, 28b, 28c) that run in their longitudinal direction and point away from the chain links.

Claim 41. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to claim 40, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the elevations (28a, 28b, 28c) of the upper-side magnets (28) of consecutive chain links are disposed at different distances from their sides.

Claim 42. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to claim 41, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein in the case of each chain link, the elevations (28a, 28b, 28c) are disposed as in the case of the nth subsequent chain link, whereby n is a natural number.

Claim 43. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to claim 42, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein n is greater than or equal to 3.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) Power supply chain according to ~~one of claims 33 to 43, characterized in that~~ claim 33, wherein it has rollers that roll along the lateral guides (8) on its sides facing the lateral guides (8) of a distribution trough (4).